

## **Taxidermy Permit Requirements**

- Any person in Wisconsin who mounts or preserves the carcass of any wild animals for a consideration must obtain a two-year taxidermist permit from the Department of Natural Resources except the mounting of deer heads or deer antlers does not require a taxidermy license. The consideration can be either by barter or monetary payment.
- A Seller's Permit from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue is required of all applicants for a taxidermist permit.
- Wisconsin residents and nonresidents may apply for permits.
- A resident or nonresident taxidermist permit is valid from September 1st, or the date of issuance if later, until August 31st of the second year following issuance.
- Employees while working under the direct supervision of a permitted taxidermist do not need a taxidermy permit.

## **Authorization**

- The taxidermy permit allows the holder to prepare and preserve the head, skin, part of the skin or body of wild animals and fish in a lifelike manner for a consideration. A taxidermist permit entitles the permit holder to the same privileges as a class A fur dealers license.
- Permitted taxidermists are allowed to possess and transport lawfully acquired game birds, fish and animals (in connection with their business only) over the possession limit numbers imposed by state regulations. This can be done both during open and closed seasons for the various species. Taxidermists aren't allowed to personally exceed bag or possession limits.

## **Taxidermist Permit Responsibilities**

- To maintain accurate inventories, permitted taxidermists must attach a numbered tag to each wild animal carcass or part received. The tag number must correspond to record numbers listing the carcass owner's name, address, signature and date received by the taxidermist plus a description of the carcass or part.
- These records must be made in triplicate with one copy of each transaction kept in the place of business for two years following the effective period of the permit.
- The Department has the authority to inspect these records anytime between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays (except holidays). This includes inspection of the numbered carcass identification tags, the corresponding information records and records of all wild animal carcasses received at, or delivered to the place of business. Taxidermists must cooperate with inspecting agents and willingly produce items for inspection.
- Wild animals either taken or possessed in any manner violating the laws of another state are unlawful in Wisconsin.

- For research purposes, fisher, otter and bobcat carcasses must be submitted to the Department when the animal is registered. Persons who wish to have the fisher, otter or bobcat mounted may register the whole animal carcass after the animal is skinned by the taxidermist and then the carcass should be submitted to the Department.
- When deer and bear are taken in for mounting, the tags must be retained by the owner and kept with the meat. For other animal species which require tagging, it's recommended, but not required, that all government tags (except deer and bear) be attached inconspicuously to the mounted display for the owner's future reference.
- Legally harvested fish and game that is the personal property of the taxidermist can be stored with articles received in connection with a taxidermy business, only if the carcasses belonging to the taxidermist are tagged and recorded in the same manner as if they belonged to a customer.
- The title to all wild animals rests with the state until they are lawfully reduced to private possession. Wild animals taken or held in violation of the law may be seized by the Department.

## **Management of Taxidermist Records**

- Taxidermy regulations require that the taxidermist prepare triplicate records and retain at least one copy of each record at the place of business. These records are required for all wild animal carcasses received at, delivered to or shipped from the taxidermist place of business.
- The Department does not supply the forms for maintaining records. It's recommended that each taxidermist purchase the standard pre-numbered, triplicate business form.
- The information required to be maintained on this business form includes:
  1. Identification number corresponding to the number on the carcass identification tag.
  2. Carcass owner's name and address.
  3. Owner's signature.
  4. Date received by the taxidermist.
  5. Description of the carcass.
- This form should be filled out upon receipt of the wild animal. One copy can be given to the customer with the original and second copies kept by the taxidermist. Filing of these sales, or informational records can be in whatever manner is suitable for the individual business. Two useful systems are alphabetically by name and sequentially by the identification record number. Each wild animal a taxidermist receives is required to have a tag attached with a number corresponding to the information record number on the form. It's recommended that taxidermists purchase the two-by-four inch manila, stringed tags similar to the federal migratory bird treaty tag. The identification record number can be written on the tag in indelible ink prior to storage in a freezer.
- Taxidermist regulations require that the tag attached to the wild animal carcass must have an identification number corresponding to the information record. It's recommended for the thorough management of your business that information including name, address, carcass description and date received also be put on this tag.
- Whenever a taxidermist or employee of a taxidermist transports a wild animal carcass for business, the required records must be completed and accompany the carcass.

## **Buying/Selling Fish and Game**

- Wisconsin Statutes prohibit any person from buying or selling fish and game. One legal exception provides that wildlife mounted, or in the process of being mounted (hide or cape removed) for a private-collection (not intended for sale) may be bought and sold. Wildlife cannot be mounted for the purpose of sale. Sale can only take place after the specimen is part of a private collection. This provision was drafted into the law to provide the legal authority for people to sell their private collection. This exception is not a provision for taxidermists to mount wild animals for purposes of sale.
- Federal law prohibits the purchase, sale and barter of wild waterfowl and other migratory birds under any conditions.
- The heads, hides and antlers of legally killed deer may be bought and sold if they are first removed from the rest of the carcass. Squirrel tails and skins if removed from the carcass can be traded. Rabbits and raccoons can be traded during their open season.
- Unclaimed, or abandoned wildlife items that have been preserved by mounting for a customer's private collection may be lawfully sold by a taxidermist, except that migratory birds cannot be sold.
- Any private collection including a taxidermist's private collection can be sold, except migratory birds cannot be sold.
- Deer hides purchased for resale as raw hides, do not require any records. Deer capes and deer hides bought by a taxidermist for taxidermy purposes should be entered in the taxidermist's records.
- Game birds and animals acquired from licensed game farms, if properly tagged, aren't subject to the selling or bartering prohibition in State Statute 29.539. These items can be mounted and sold.
- Fish purchased from registered fish farms can be mounted, traded or bartered.
- Migratory waterfowl must be properly marked as required by Federal Law (50 CFR 21.13). The purchase, sale and barter of migratory waterfowl is illegal.
- Wild animals tagged with WDNR Accountable Seizure Tags may only be sold if the box that is designated "Resale or transfer is prohibited" has not been punched out by a knife or paper clip.

## **Other Regulations Governing Taxidermist Activities**

- Wild animals taken from Indian reservations during the closed season for the species off the reservation must be tagged with an Indian reservation fur, fish and game tag before removal from the reservation.
- The Federal Government requires taxidermists to have a Federal taxidermy permit to prepare migratory bird mounts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also regulates the capture, transport and possession of all migratory birds. Any person wishing to perform taxidermy on migratory birds (ducks, geese, swans, woodcock, rails, snipe, etc.) should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111 for information on these regulations.

## Endangered and Threatened Species

- No person, including taxidermists, may possess any of the wildlife species listed on the Wisconsin or Federal "Endangered and Threatened Species List" unless a permit is attached to the carcass.
- SPECIAL NOTE: Some of the wild animal listed on Wisconsin's "Endangered and Threatened Species List" can be legally harvested or purchased in other states or countries. Prior to these animals being imported into Wisconsin, the person owning the carcass must first apply for a permit and tag to attach to the carcass.

## Protected Wild Animals

- NR10.02 Protected wild animals. The following wild animals are designated protected. No person may take, attempt to take, transport or possess any protected wild animal at any time unless expressly authorized by the department.
  - (1) Cougar, Canada lynx, badger, moose, elk, wolverine, and flying squirrel.
  - (2) Endangered or threatened species listed in ch. NR27.
  - (3) Albino or white deer which are white except for the hooves, tarsal glands, head and parts of the head.
  - (4) Woodchuck except as provided in s.29.337, Stats.
  - (5) Prairie chicken, Canada spruce grouse (spruce hen), swans, cranes, bitterns, plovers, kingfishers, cormorants, herons, sandpipers and grebes.
  - (6) Eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls except as provided in ch NR 18.
  - (7) Hen pheasants except as expressly provided in this chapter.
  - (8) Any other wild bird not specified in this chapter.
  - (9) Timber rattlesnake.
- SPECIAL NOTE: Cougar, Canada lynx, badger, moose, elk, wolverine, woodchuck, canada spruce grouse, and some cranes can be legally harvested in other states and countries. Wisconsin listed protected animals that are legally harvested in another jurisdiction can be imported into Wisconsin without any extra permits so long as those animals have a tag or permit attached by or with the authority of the state or country where the animal was legally harvested.
- If the state or country does not require any tags or permits to be attached to the animal, contact your local conservation warden prior to having the animal brought into or shipped to your business. The warden can issue a Wisconsin non-accountable tag for the animal to avoid future challenges to your legal possession.
- This procedure does not apply to animals listed on the Wisconsin or Federal "Endangered and Threatened Species List."

## **Fur Dealer Privileges and Responsibilities**

- “Fur-bearing animals” includes otter, beaver, mink, muskrat, marten, fisher, skunk, raccoon, fox, weasel, opossum, badger, wolf, coyote, bobcat, cougar, and lynx.
- Permitted taxidermists are authorized to buy, barter or trade raw fur. They must keep complete records of all transactions involving raw furs. The records must show the name and address of persons the furs were bought from and sold to along with the number and kind of furs involved in the transaction.
- Wild animals whose fur may be lawfully traded in Wisconsin include mink, beaver, otter, muskrat, fox, raccoon, fisher, rabbit, coyote, and bobcat. All raw pelts of otter, fisher, and bobcat must have a harvester's tag and a registration tag attached until the pelt is tanned or made into a mount. The severed tags should be returned to the owner.
- Tanned hides of fur bearing animals may be sold at any time.
- Unprotected fur bearing animal pelts of skunk, weasel and opossum, may be traded.
- Timber wolf and pine marten are listed Wisconsin endangered or threatened animals and their pelts may not be possessed unless a permit is issued by Wisconsin prior to the pelt being imported into the state.
- Badger, cougar, lynx, and wolverine are protected in Wisconsin; however, their pelts when legally obtained from another state or province may be possessed in Wisconsin if the pelt has a tag attached state or country of origin.

## **It Is Unlawful To:**

- Buy, or sell bear teeth, claws, gall bladders, or other parts, except traded that the entire bear hide with claws, head and teeth intact may be sold or purchased.
- Possess the skin of any mink, muskrat, fisher, beaver, or otter showing that the animal was shot or speared.
- Ship or transport any package of furs unless the package is marked showing the kind and number of furs contained, the license number and address of the consignor and consignee.
- Possess any raptor ( hawks, owls, eagles or falcon) or any nongame migratory bird including any songbirds, flickers, woodpeckers, or any other protected species of wild animals without proper state or federal authorization.
- Buy or barter game fish or game fish skins unless a person holds a valid taxidermy school permit and who, on August 15, 1991, operates a taxidermy school approved by the educational approval board under s. 45.54.
- Furs which were unlawfully taken or possessed in another state are unlawful to possess in Wisconsin.